



DARK NIGHTS

5

DEATH



**Scott
Snyder**

**Greg
Capullo**

**Jonathan
Glapion**

**FCO
Plascencia**

RATED **T+** TEEN PLUS DCCOMICS.COM

Capullo
'17 + fco
Glapion



DARK NIGHTS

5

WEDNESDAY



SMITH
WILLIAMS
SINCE

**Scott
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DARK NIGHTS

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DEATH



Andy
Hussey
BA

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DARK NIGHTS

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DEFEAT



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TONY
JAMES
2017
Tommy James

NOW.
GOTHAM CITY.

IS IT THAT
TIME, MY
KNIGHT?

YET THE
SINKING HAS
STOPPED.

SUPERMAN ESCAPED
THE BATTERY. IF THE
HEROES FIND THE
METAL THEY SEEK...

THEY WON'T.
EVERY BEGINNING,
LARGE OR SMALL,
BEGINS IN GREAT
NOISE.

CROW
CR--

BAR.

BIG BANGS.

SCREAMS.

IN
MY CASE,
BOTH.

BUT YOUR VOICE...
IT'S THE DARK CHORD THAT
WILL SHAKE THE STRINGS
OF THE MULTIVERSE!

ANTI-MUSIC TO
BRING THE HORDES OF
THE DARK HERE!

IT IS,
MY LORD.
TIME...TO
WAIL.

THAAAAT'S
RIGHT...OPEN UP
AND CALL THE
DARK ARMY!

WAIL, MY
LORD! WAIL!
LET'S BLOW THE
DAMN WALLS
OFF...

...ONCE
AND FOR
ALL!

FORGE OF WORLDS.

BATMAN...
I HEAR...A
HORRIBLE
NOISE...

FOCUS,
SUPERMAN!

CARTER
HALL, LISTEN
TO ME!

ALL ROADS
LEAD BACK
TO HIM...

...TO
DARKNESS!

WATCH
OUT!

CRIME
ALLEY...?

BRUCE, HALL
IS GONE, TURNED
INTO SOME DEMON
OF BARBATOS. AND
THE FORGE--

DON'T
YOU SAY IT,
CLARK--

HAIL
DARKNESS!

MOVE!

OPEN YOUR
EYES! WE'RE TOO
LATE! THE FORGE
HAS GONE DARK! ALL
IT CREATES ARE...
NIGHTMARES. WE
HAVE TO REGROUP
AND--

NO! BARBATOS
MADE ME LOSE HOPE
ONCE BEFORE! NEVER
AGAIN!

HAIL
BARBATOS!

BATS!
THE BAD NEWS
=~~WAUGH~~= IS
HARVEY HERE
SAWED YOUR KIDS
IN HALF.

NO! NO, I
WON'T FALL
FOR IT THIS
TIME!

THE GOOD
NEWS--YOU
HAVE TWICE
AS MANY
NOW.

DANIEL SAID
THE METAL IN THIS
FORGE CAN SLAY
BARBATOS IF IT'S
BRIGHT.

DAMMIT,
BRUCE,
WAIT!

NO! THERE
HAS TO BE
SOME LIGHT
LEFT IN THE
METAL!

WE
NEED TO
GET
THERE...

"...WE NEED TO
GET DOWN TO
THE BOTTOM!"

HOLY...WHERE
IN THE HELL DID
YOUR *CHUM-HOLE*
TAKE US,
AQUAMAN?

CENTER OF THE EARTH.

THE SOFTNESS OF
THE ROCK...IT APPEARS
WE'RE...AT THE *PLANET'S*
CORE. TOO DEEP TO
CONTACT THE REST OF
THE LEAGUE.

GODS...THAT
MAGMA EXTRACT,
THOUGH...IT'S ENCASED
IN SOME FORM OF
ATLANTEAN TECHNOLOGY...
PROTECTING US FROM
THE HEAT...

LOOKS LIKE
WHOEVER KILLED
YOUR GUARDS HAS
BEEN HERE, TOO.
WHAT WAS THIS
PLACE FOR?

OUR HISTORY
SAYS THAT KING ARION
SAVED ATLANTIS THROUGH
ANCIENT MAGIC SPUN AT THE
CORE OF THE EARTH. BUT
THIS, DEATHSTROKE...

...THIS
TECHNOLOGY...IT'S
NOT JUST ATLANTEAN.
IT'S SOME KIND OF
HYBRID...?

LOOK, I CAN
SENSE *NTH METAL*
IN THAT ORB. CAN
YOU OPERATE THIS
THING?

IT'S A MIX
OF ANCIENT
TECHNOLOGIES,
BUT THE
FOUNDATION IS
ATLANTEAN.
SO, YES.

WELL,
ALL RIGHT
THEN...

"...WHERE'S THE DAMN ON SWITCH?"

LOCK...
PIT.

LOCK...
PICKET
FENCE.

LOCK...
PIC...KLE...

DAMMIT. EVERY TIME I TRY TO
MAKE A **CONSTRUCT**, MY TRAIN OF
THOUGHT DERAILS. WE **NEED** TO REACH
WONDER WOMAN OR CYBORG.

STARRO IS JAMMING
YOU, GREEN LANTERN. WE
HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY
OUT! IF THEY GET CONTROL
OF **PLASTIC MAN**...

PLASTIC MAN?
WE CAME HERE
FOR NTH METAL,
MR. TERRIFIC. WHAT'S
SO DAMN **SPECIAL**
ABOUT THIS GUY
ANYWAY?

EEL O'BRIEN
WASN'T SPECIAL.
HE WAS JUST A
THIEF.

ONE NIGHT, HE
FELL INTO A VAT OF
CHEMICALS. MY BEST
GUESS, SOME ATTEMPT BY
THE **OWLS** OR **S.T.A.R.**
LABS TO APPROXIMATE
COSMIC METALS.

NOW HIS
MOLECULAR STRUCTURE
CHANGES WITH HIS DESIRES.
HIS BODY IS A **SUPER-**
CONDUCTOR FOR COSMIC
ENERGIES, WHICH IS WHY
THEY'RE AFTER HIM.

SINCE DARK
ENERGY STARTED
RISING, THE
NIGHTMARES OF
EVERY LIVING THING
RUN THROUGH HIS
HEAD, TRYING
TO PULL HIM
TOWARD
EVIL.

BUT HE KEPT
HELPING ME. WHEN
THE THOUGHTS FINALLY
BECAME TOO MUCH, HE
RETRACTED INTO THAT EGG.
HE'S FIGHTING OFF MILLIONS
OF **DARK IMPULSES** EVERY
SECOND. HE'S A HERO,
AND...MY **FRIEND**...
IF THEY--

THEY WON'T,
MICHAEL. BUT IN
HERE WE'RE
HELPLESS.

NOT
QUITE.

AND
JUST WHO
ARE YOU,
BIRDIE?

FUNNY
YOU SHOULD
ASK...



I'M AN
OLD FRIEND,
HAL.

MARTIAN
MANHUNTER...?

J'ONN, IS IT
REALLY YOU?
WHERE THE
HELL--

I'VE BEEN
HERE ON *THANAGAR
PRIME*, EXPLORING THE
VERY QUESTIONS YOU'VE
BEEN ASKING, YOURSELF.
WHY THIS PLACE AND
OTHERS WERE KEPT
SECRET...BUT THERE'S
NO TIME NOW!

WE *MUST* GET
PLASTIC MAN. I HAVE
YOUR SPHERES, DR. HOLT.
AND I CAN BLOCK STARRO.
BUT ARE YOU WELL
ENOUGH TO--

TAKE
US TO THE
EGG...

...I'M GOING
TO KICK
THAT SPACE
STARFISH'S
ASS.

(TECHNICALLY,
HE DOESN'T
HAVE AN
ASS.)

OH,
BELIEVE
ME...

...I'LL FIND ONE.

TRAITOR!
YOU'D SELL OUT
THE WORLD FOR YOUR
KINGDOM OF SAND,
BLACK ADAM?

FOR A NEW
DARK WORLD
WHERE KAHNDAQ
THRIVES, YES.

I'VE LIVED LONG
ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN
TO FIGHT AND WHEN TO
DEAL, WONDER WOMAN! AND
THERE ARE ONLY REASONS
TO COMPROMISE HERE!

I'LL GIVE
YOU FIVE
NOT TO.

KRAK

AQUAMAN!
CYBORG! ANYONE,
COME IN!

DAMMIT!

KENDRA,
YOU HAVE
TO BREAK
BARBATOS'
GRIP!
PLEASE!

NEVER, FOR ALL
ROADS LEAD TO
DARKNESS.

THAT'S WHAT
HE WANTS YOU
TO BELIEVE! THINK
OF BATMAN AND
SUPERMAN, FIGHTING
DOWN IN THE DARK!
THINK OF CARTER! IF
WE CAN FIND HIS
MACE--

THERE IS
NO MACE HERE,
FOOL! AND
HALL...

AGH!

"...HALL IS
LOST TO
THE DARK."

**YOU
SHALL NOT
PASS!**

KEEP GOING,
CLARK! ~~HUFF HUFF~~
LEAVE ME! YOU CAN...
YOU CAN MAKE IT
DOWN TO THE
FORGE...

BRUCE...

DIANA, THE
LEAGUE...THEY'LL
STILL BE FIGHTING.
WE HAVE TO KEEP
FIGHTING T--

THE
FORGE IS
DARK, BRUCE.
I WANT TO FIGHT,
TOO, BUT THERE'S
NOWHERE TO
GO. WE NEED
TO RETREAT!
PLEASE...



YOU WILL BE
RETURNED TO THE
FORGE, TO DARKNESS!
PREPARE YOURSELVES!
THERE IS NO
RETREAT!

NO!
THERE
ISN'T!

"TO RETREAT,"
=COUGH COUGH=
"TO RETREAT IS
TO WALK ALONE, TO
EXPLORE IS TO WALK
WITH GENERATIONS,
DEAD AND ALIVE,
IN AN ACT OF
LOVE..."



I CAME HERE
DECADES AGO SEEKING
THE MAN WHO WROTE THOSE
WORDS IN HIS *JOURNAL*,
THE GREAT HERO,
HAWKMAN!



THERE
IS NO
HAWKMAN
HER-

DAMN RIGHT.
THAT HERO,
CARTER HALL,
HE'S LONG
DEAD.



YES...
CARTER...
HALL...
IS...



BRUCE,
THE FORGE...
A SPARK!



THAT'S RIGHT,
YOU BIG TURKEY...
=COUGH=
=COUGH=...

"...CARTER HALL, HE MIGHT
HAVE BEEN THE *GREATEST*
DETECTIVE IN HUMAN HISTORY.

"A MAN WHO CARRIED
THE TORCH OF *DISCOVERY*
FORWARD...

"...LIGHTING THE
DARKNESS, NO
MATTER HOW
TERRIFYING THE
MYSTERY.

"A HERO WHO PUSHED
THROUGH, SEEKING
TRUTH, EVEN WHEN IT
SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE
TO FIND...

"...EVEN WHEN
THE ANSWERS
HE SOUGHT...
TURNED OUT
TO BE...

"...*SAVAGE*."

⇒UNH⇒
COME
ON!

ENOUGH!

YOU HAVE
NO CHANCE
OF WINNING HERE!
YOU MIGHT HAVE
FOUND THE MACE,
BUT IT CHANGES
NOTHING!

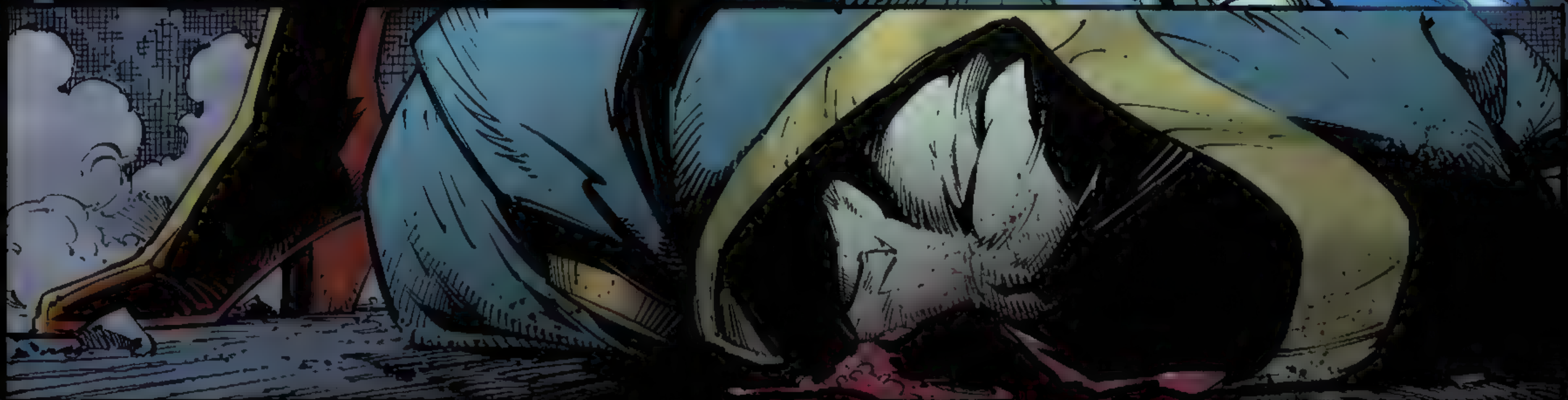
YOU MEAN
CARTER HALL'S MACE?
MADE OF NTH METAL?
⇒UNH⇒ WHICH IS
HYPER-CONDUCTIVE?
MEANING...IT ABSORBS
AND STORES
ENERGY?

LIKE THE
KIND YOU'RE
GENERATING?

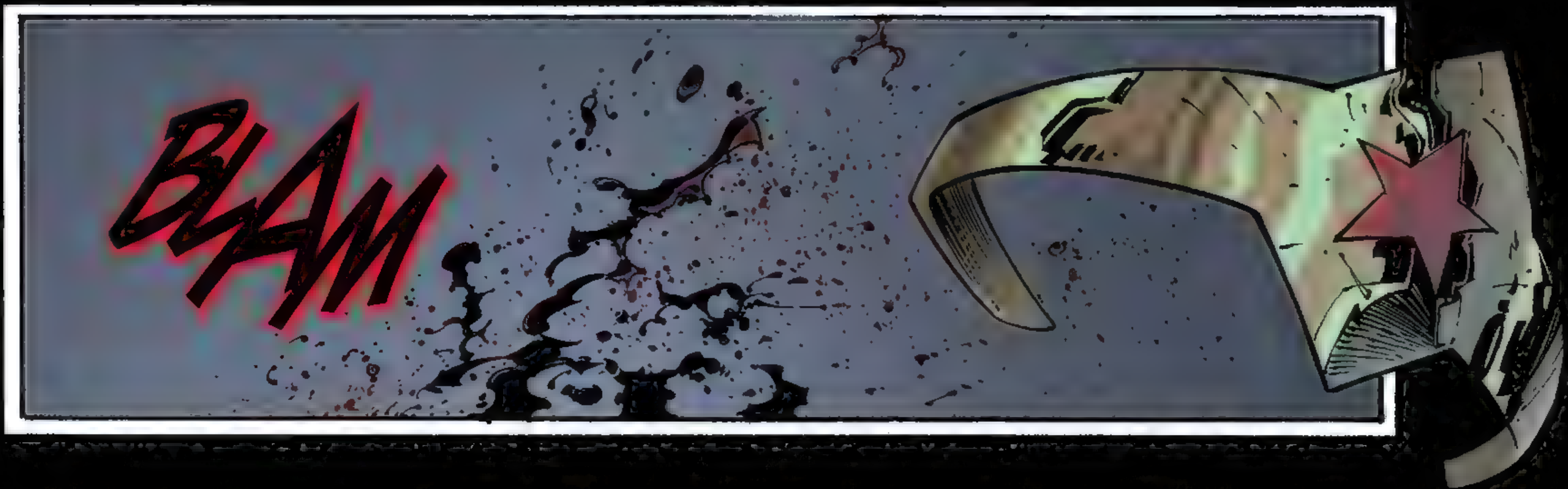
I THINK
WHAT YOU'RE
TRYING TO SAY,
BLACK ADAM,
IS, OH SH...




...SHAZAM!



HUH. I
COULD GET
USED TO
YOU.



BLAM



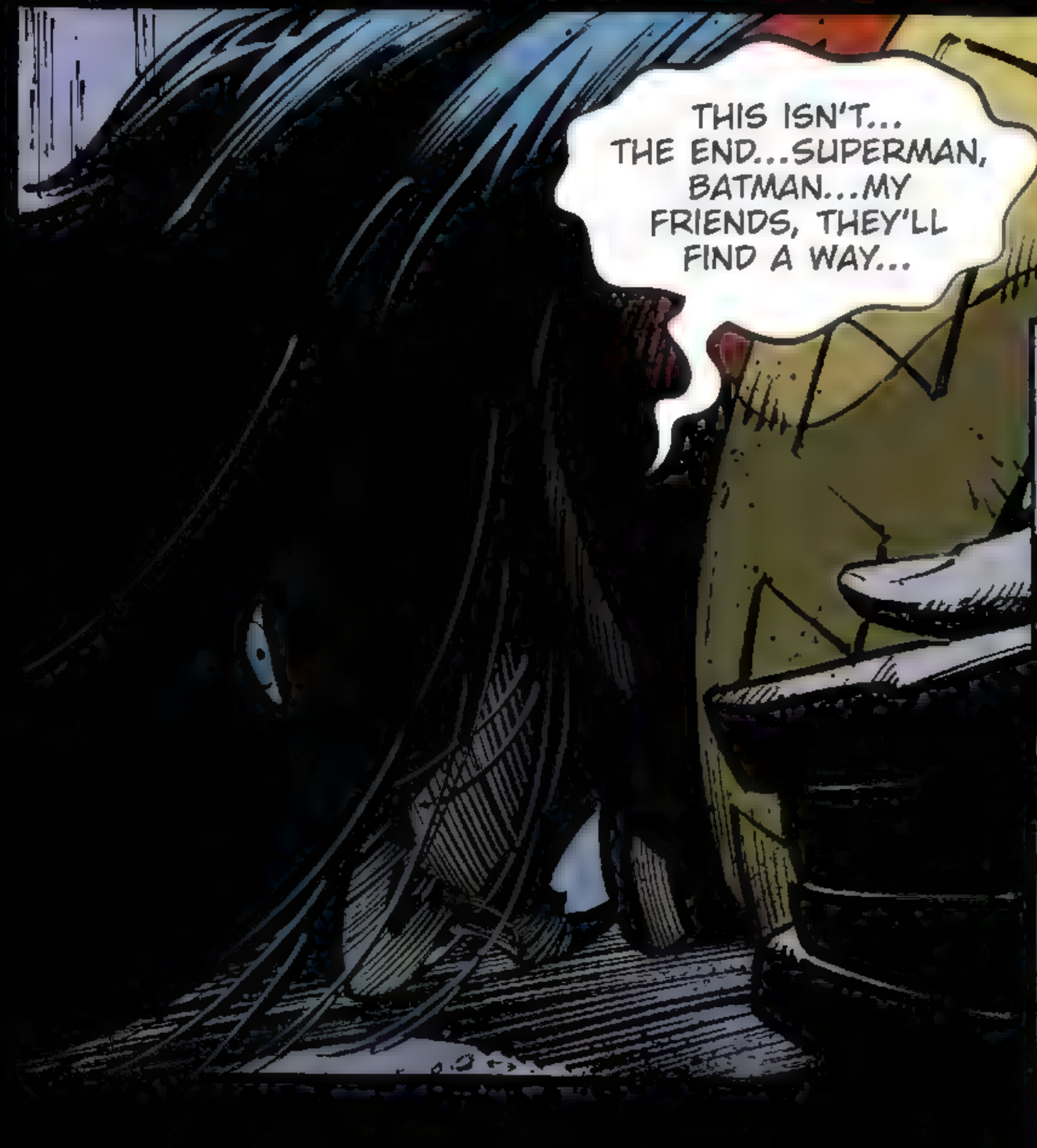
THE BULLETS ARE
MADE OF EIGHTH METAL,
SAME AS YOUR INVISIBLE
JET, IF YOU HAVE THAT
ON THIS EARTH.

HELLO, DIANA... HOW
ARE YOU? ME, I'VE DONE
A LOT OF TRAVELING LATELY.
HAD THE PLEASURE OF VISITING
MANY, MANY WORLDS, AND
KILLING THEM.

ON MOST, WE'RE
ALLIES. ON OTHERS,
ENEMIES. ON A FEW,
WE'RE ACTUALLY
TOGETHER AND HAVE
CHILDREN.

THEY'RE
FIERCE LITTLE
CREATURES. I EVEN
TOOK DOWN THEIR
NAMES... BEFORE I
KILLED THEM
TOO.

ONE THING IS
CONSISTENT ABOUT
YOU, THOUGH, ON NEARLY
EVERY PLANET, EVEN WHEN
EVERYONE ELSE FALLS,
EVEN ALL ALONE, YOU
ALWAYS **FIGHT** UNTIL
THE END.

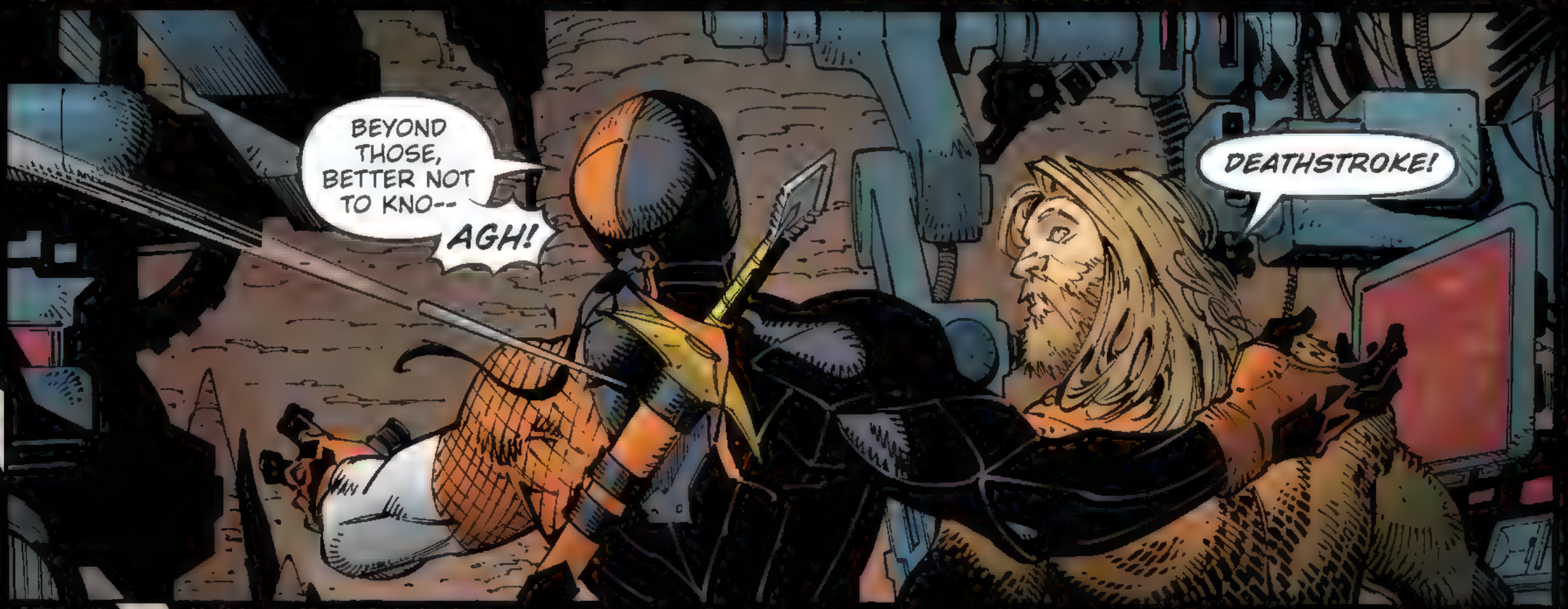


THIS ISN'T...
THE END... SUPERMAN,
BATMAN... MY
FRIENDS, THEY'LL
FIND A WAY...



STOP. JUST
LISTEN.

YOU HEAR
THAT? PEOPLE THINK OF
BIRTH AS LOUD, AND DEATH
AS SILENT. THINGS START
WITH A BANG, END WITH A
WHIMPER, BUT I'LL TELL
YOU A **SECRET**. SEE,
ENDINGS...







"...WE WOULDN'T WANT IT ANY OTHER WAY."

OHHHH, IT HURTS!

I HAVE SEEN MANY THINGS ACROSS MANY UNIVERSES, BUT THAT WAS NEW.

I TOLD YOU HE HAD ONE.*

AFTER THE EGG!

*STARRO HAS FIVE, ACTUALLY. (DON'T ASK). --TAY



YOU CAN'T WIN, FOOLS. ALL ROADS LEAD TO HIM! YOU WILL FIND ONLY DARKNESS.



MY BOOT'S ABOUT TO FIND YOUR DARKNESS. NOW GIVE US PLASTIC MAN BACK.

HE'S ONE OF US.

I'D LISTEN TO THE MAN, SYN.



HEH. ALL RIGHT. YOU WANT THE EGG? TAKE IT.

SEE WHAT GOOD IT DOES YOU!

THE **PHOENIX CANNON** IS DESIGNED TO BRIGHTEN NTH METAL AT THE CORE OF THE EARTH, SHOULD THE PLANET EVER BEGIN TO SINK INTO THE DARK!

IF WE CAN **ACTIVATE** IT, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO **RAISE** THE PLANET.

CAN YOU OPERATE IT, MR. TERRIFIC?

I CAN TRY. BUT THE POLARITY... SOMETHING'S **WRONG** WITH IT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT'S BEEN ENTIRELY **REVERSED** BY SOMEONE.

BY WHO?

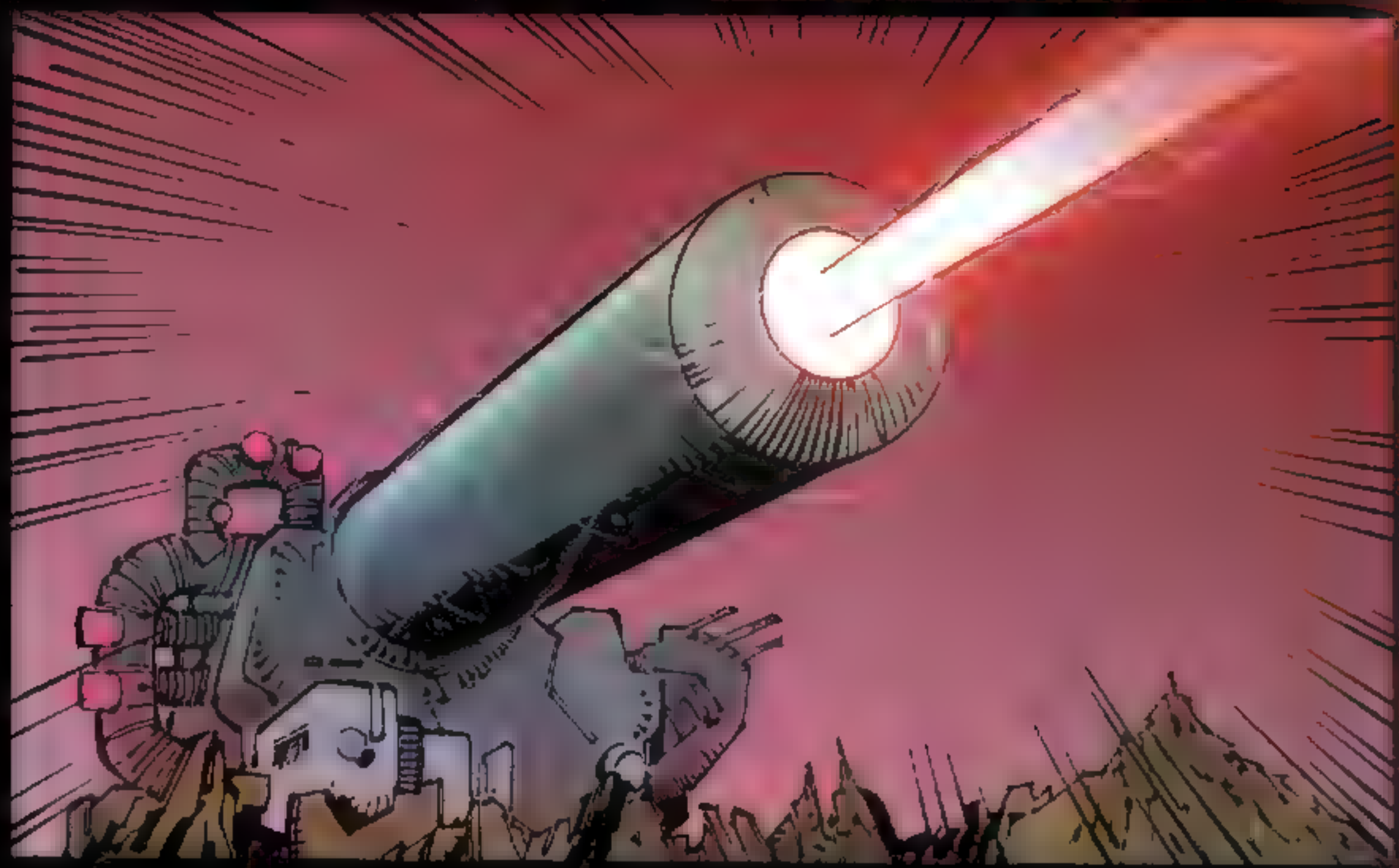
BY US.

ALL PART OF THE BATTLE PLAN, LANTERN...

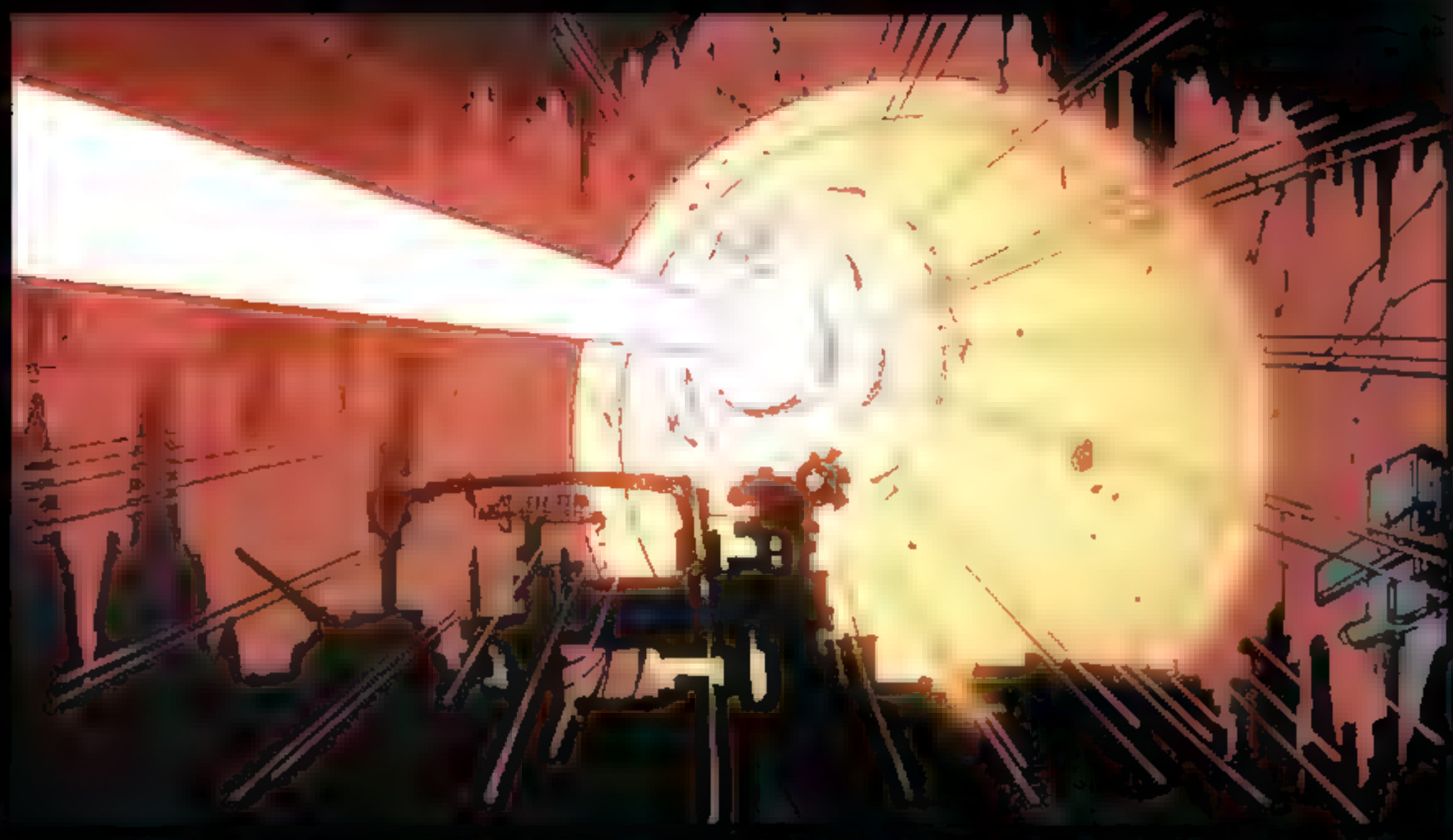
SO BRIGHT...

NO...

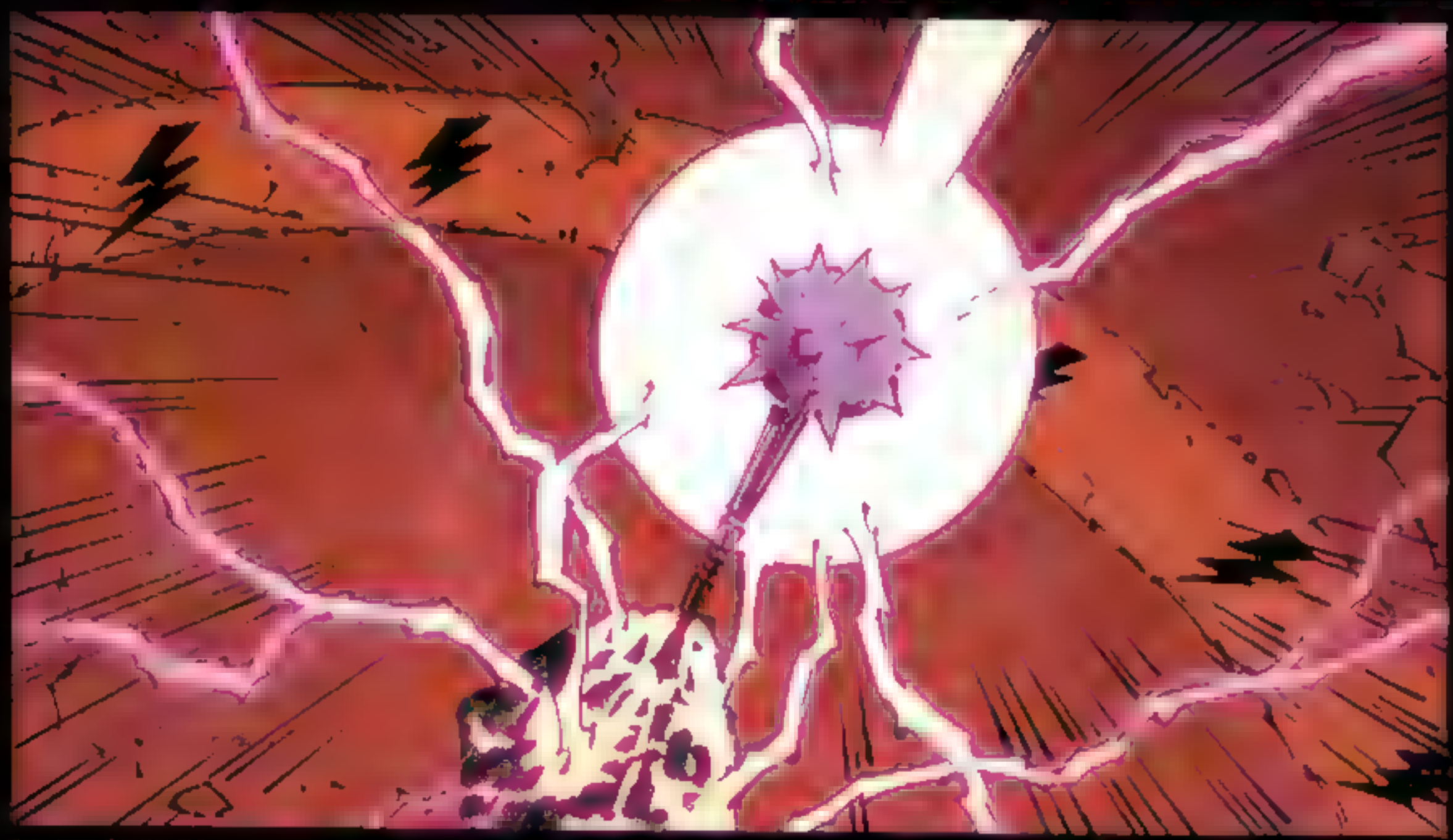
"DO YOU HEAR IT NOW, WONDER WOMAN?"



...ALL THE PIECES
CLICKING INTO PLACE?



"SEE, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS JUST
DELIVERED YOUR UNIVERSE'S LAST REMAINING
PIECES OF NTH METAL RIGHT INTO OUR HANDS.
THEY WERE FAR TOO DANGEROUS FOR US
TO RISK APPROACHING OURSELVES."



"NOW, THE EGG WILL POWER
THE REVERSED CANNON..."

"...AND ITS BEAM WILL
DARKEN THE CORE
OF THE EARTH."

"THEN, THROUGH THIS--THE
VERY MACE YOU RECOVERED--THE
EARTH WILL BE GUIDED DOWN
THROUGH THE PORTAL AND INTO
THE DARK, ONCE AND FOR ALL."



BRUCE,
IT'S...

WE
NEED TO
JUMP!



NOW!

"RIGHT NOW, YOUR
FRIENDS AT THE FORGE
ARE SEEING IT DARKEN
FOR GOOD..."

"AND MAKING A
LEAP OF FAITH THAT
WILL PROVE FUTILE."

"BECAUSE NOW THE EARTH
HAS SUNK LOW ENOUGH
THAT BARBATOS' CRY WILL
CALL FORTH THE ARMIES
OF THE DARK."



CAN YOU HEAR
IT NOW? THE LOUDEST
SCREAMS THE ONE FROM
DEEP INSIDE?

WHEN YOU ACCEPT
THAT EVERYTHING YOU'VE
DONE WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH
THAT YOU WEREN'T
GOOD ENOUGH.

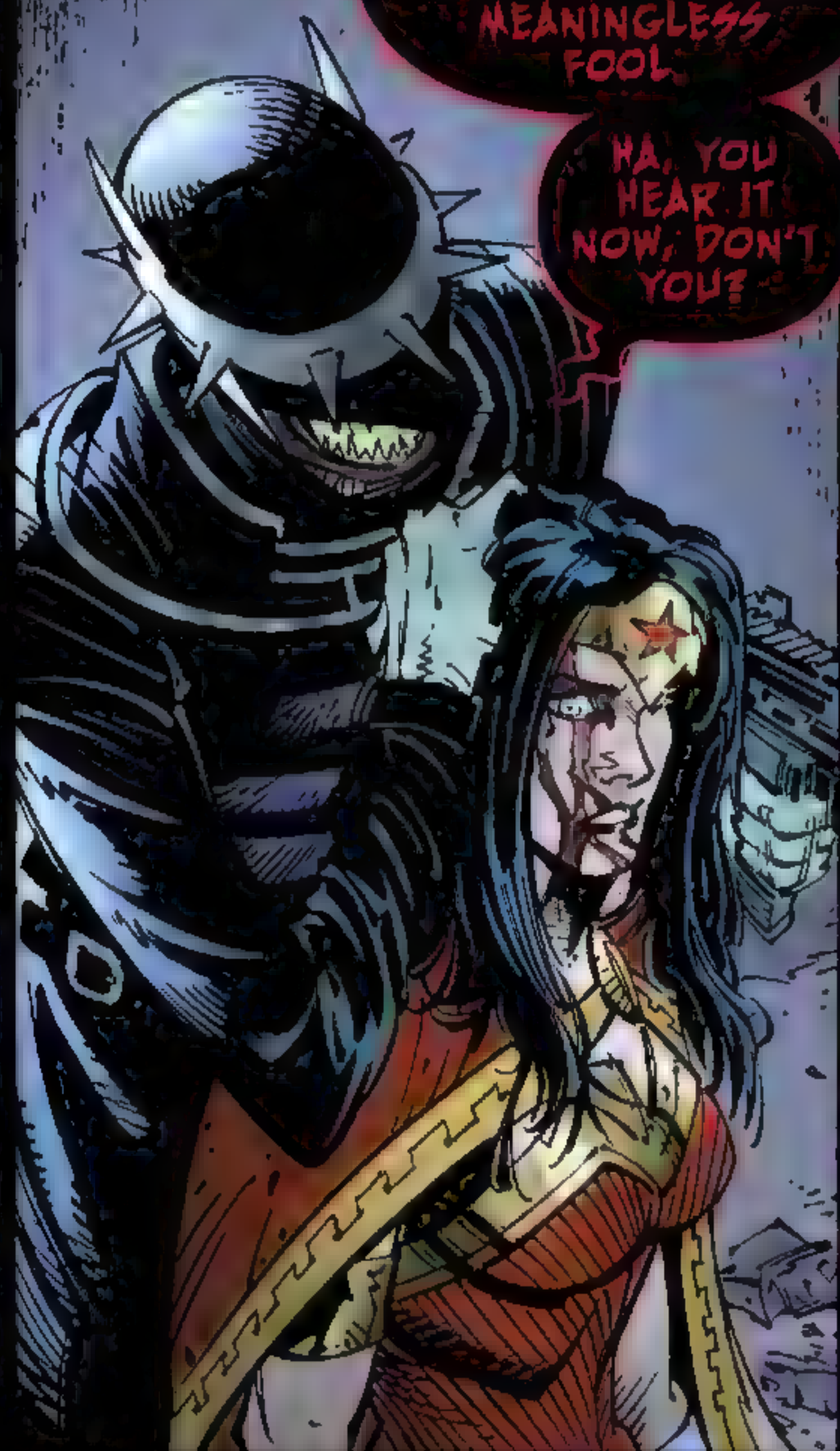


THAT THE MYSTERIES
YOU TRIED TO SOLVE
POINTED ONLY TO BIGGER
ONES, AND TO YOUR OWN
SMALLNESS.

THAT YOU
FAILED, WILL ONLY
EVER FAIL, AND WERE
A FOOL TO VENTURE
OUT AT ALL. A SMALL,
MEANINGLESS
FOOL.

HA, YOU
HEAR IT
NOW, DON'T
YOU?

GOOD-BYE,
DIANA. I'LL
LEAVE YOU HERE
TO DO WHAT YOU
DO BEST. FIGHT
POINTLESSLY
TO THE END,
ALONE.



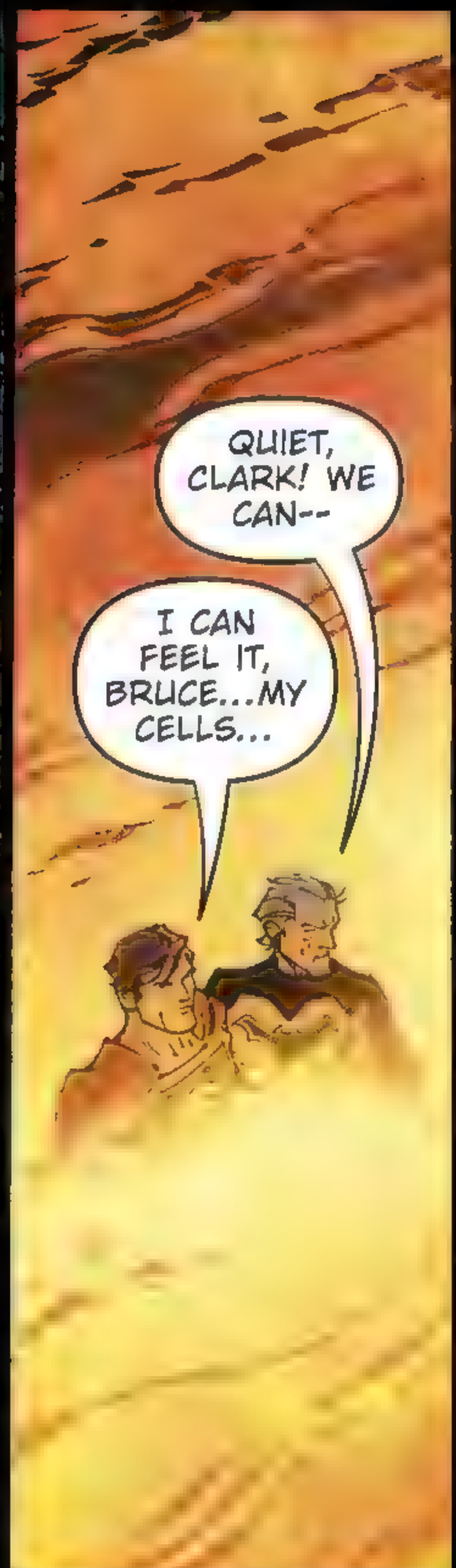
NO...NO,
IT WILL NOT
END THIS WAY.
IT'S A LIE. IT'S
MANIPULA-
TION!

IT ONLY
EVER ENDS
THIS WAY.



QUIET,
CLARK! WE
CAN--

I CAN
FEEL IT,
BRUCE...MY
CELLS...



...THEY'RE ALL COMING APART.



IT IS OVER,
WONDER WOMAN!
SURRENDER!

NEVER!

YOU AND
I ARE NOT
ALONE!

AND AT THE VERY
LEAST, I WILL MAKE
YOU SEE...



...THE
TRUTH!



UNH...
WHAT...
WHO...

YOU ARE
KENDRA
SAUNDERS.
HAWKGIRL.



AND I
NEED YOUR
HELP.

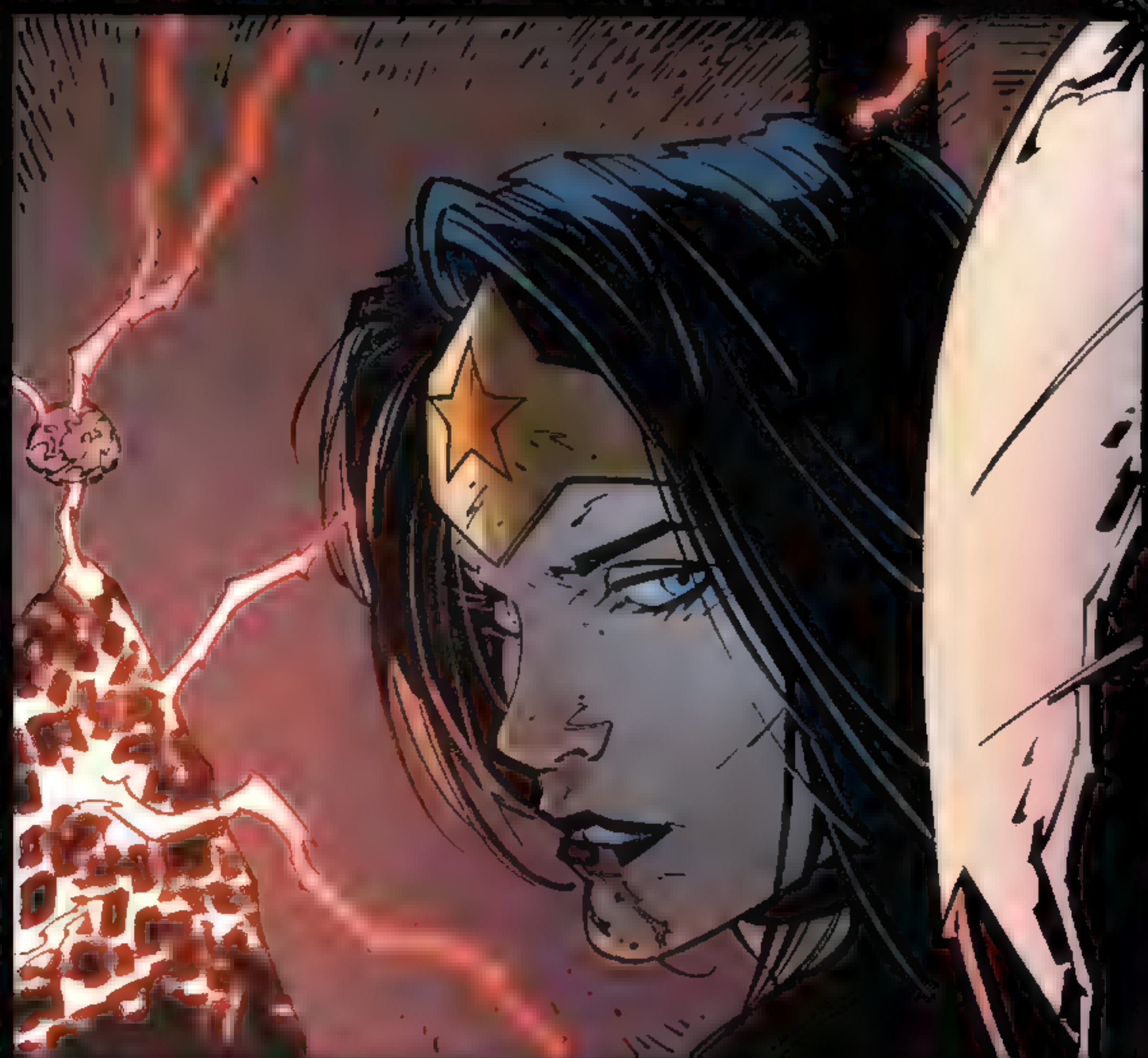
I...I...
REMEMBER...
THE LASSO,
IT...

DIANA, I'M
SORR--



NO TIME FOR
THAT NOW. TELL ME, CAN
THIS PORTAL TAKE US
TO BARBATOS?

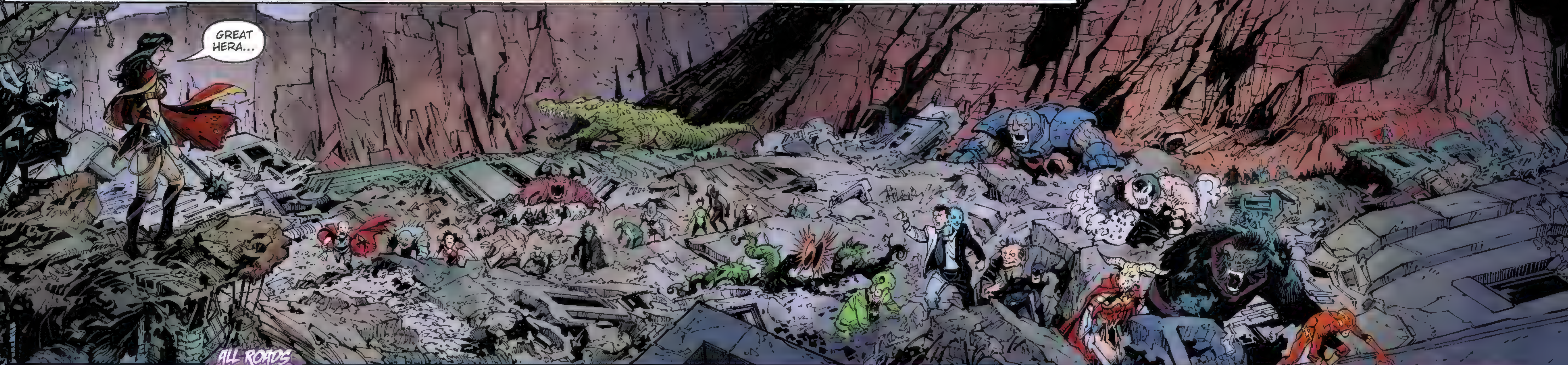
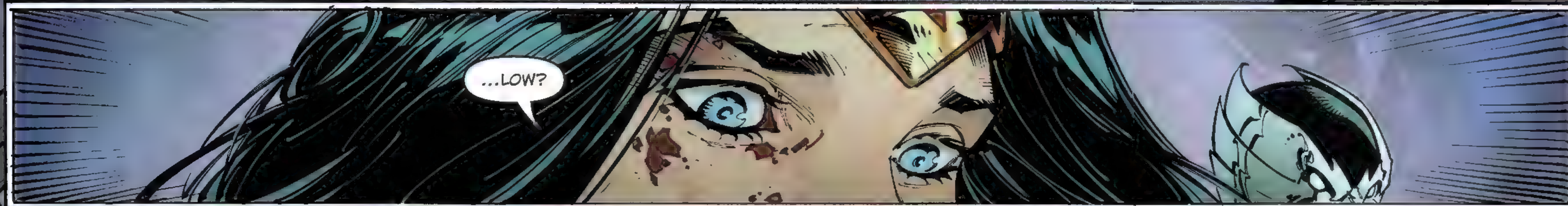
YES, BUT...THE
EARTH...IT'S SUNK
TOO FAR, I CAN FEEL
IT. IF HIS *CRY* HAS
BROUGHT FORTH HIS
ARMIES, THERE'S
NO HO--



...

SORRY.

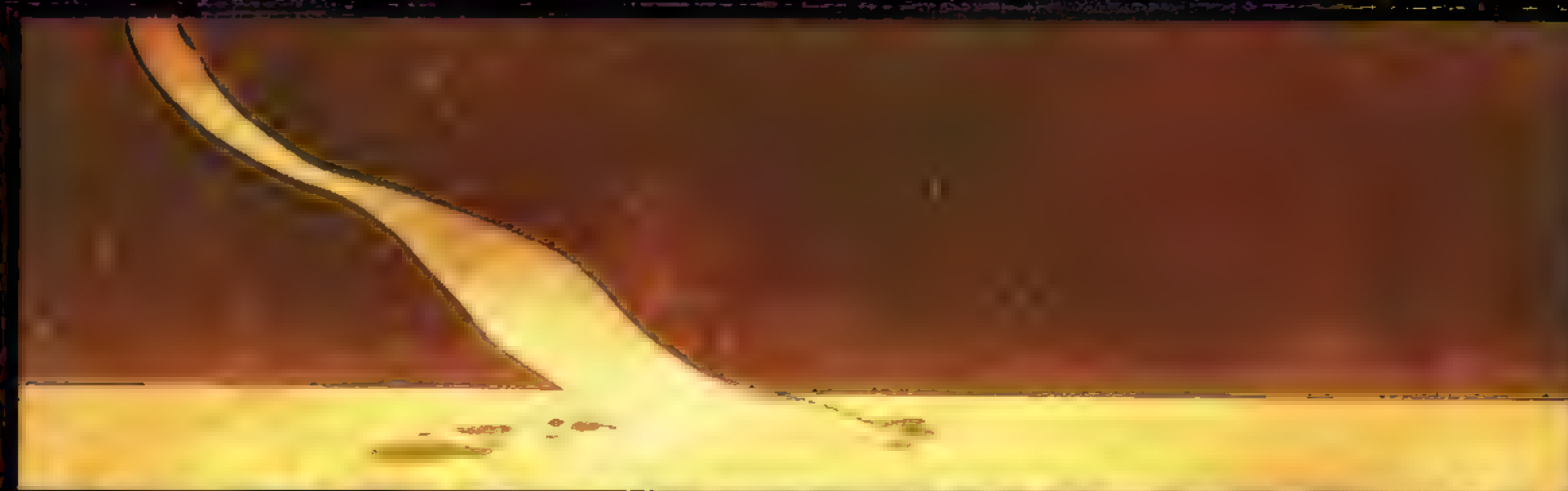
WE CAN DO
THIS, KENDRA. IF WE
JUST GET THERE BEFORE
THE EARTH SINKS
TOO...

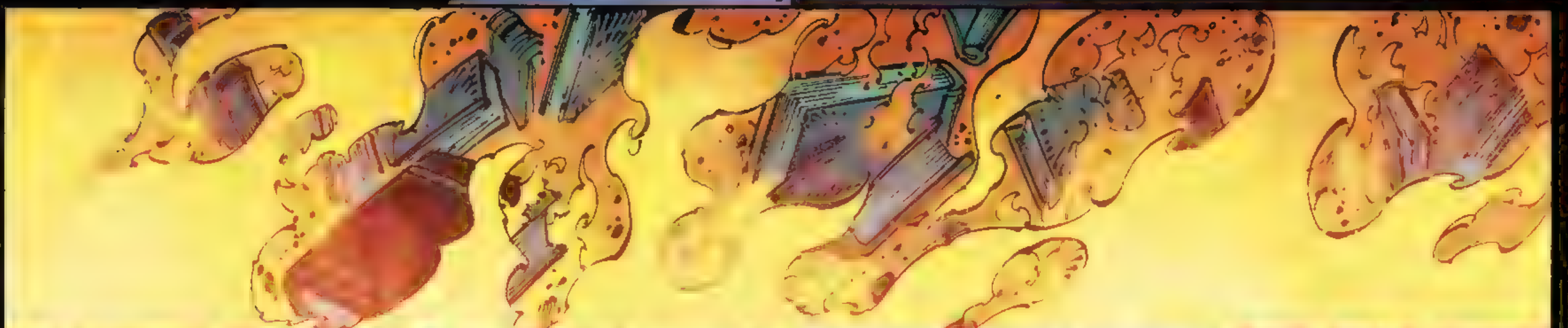


IT'S NOT OVER!



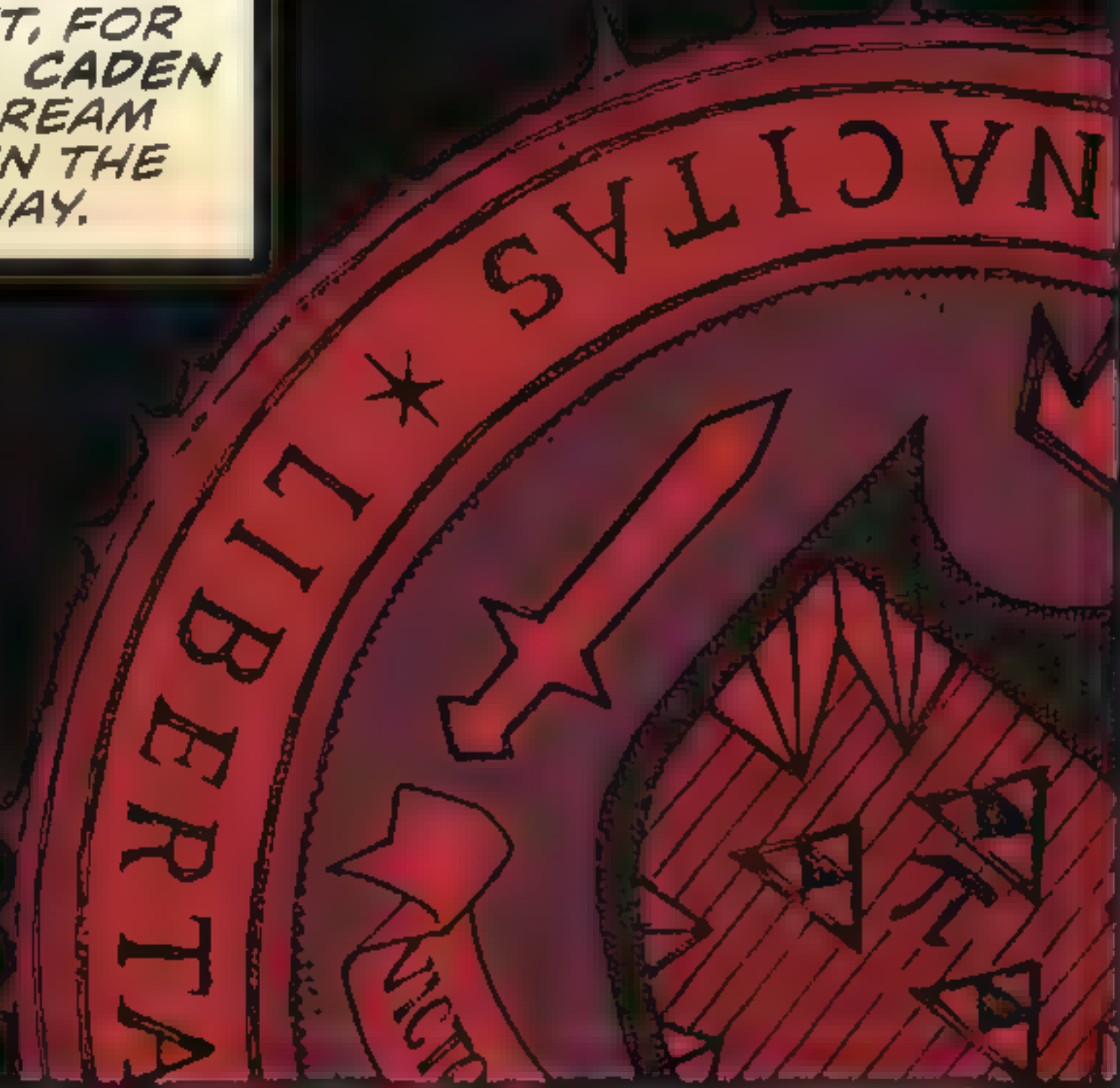
...DIANA, THE OTHERS...WE'LL WIN! W--





NEXT MONTH: The fall of the Multiverse in DARK KNIGHTS RISING: THE WILD HUNT!
And in March: The epic conclusion in DARK NIGHTS: METAL #6!

EVERY NIGHT, FOR YEARS NOW, CADEN PARK'S DREAM HAS BEGUN THE SAME WAY.



HE IS RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE.



HUNTED FOR A TERRIBLE SECRET COURSEING THROUGH HIS VEINS.

AROUND HIM ARE OTHERS LIKE HIMSELF.

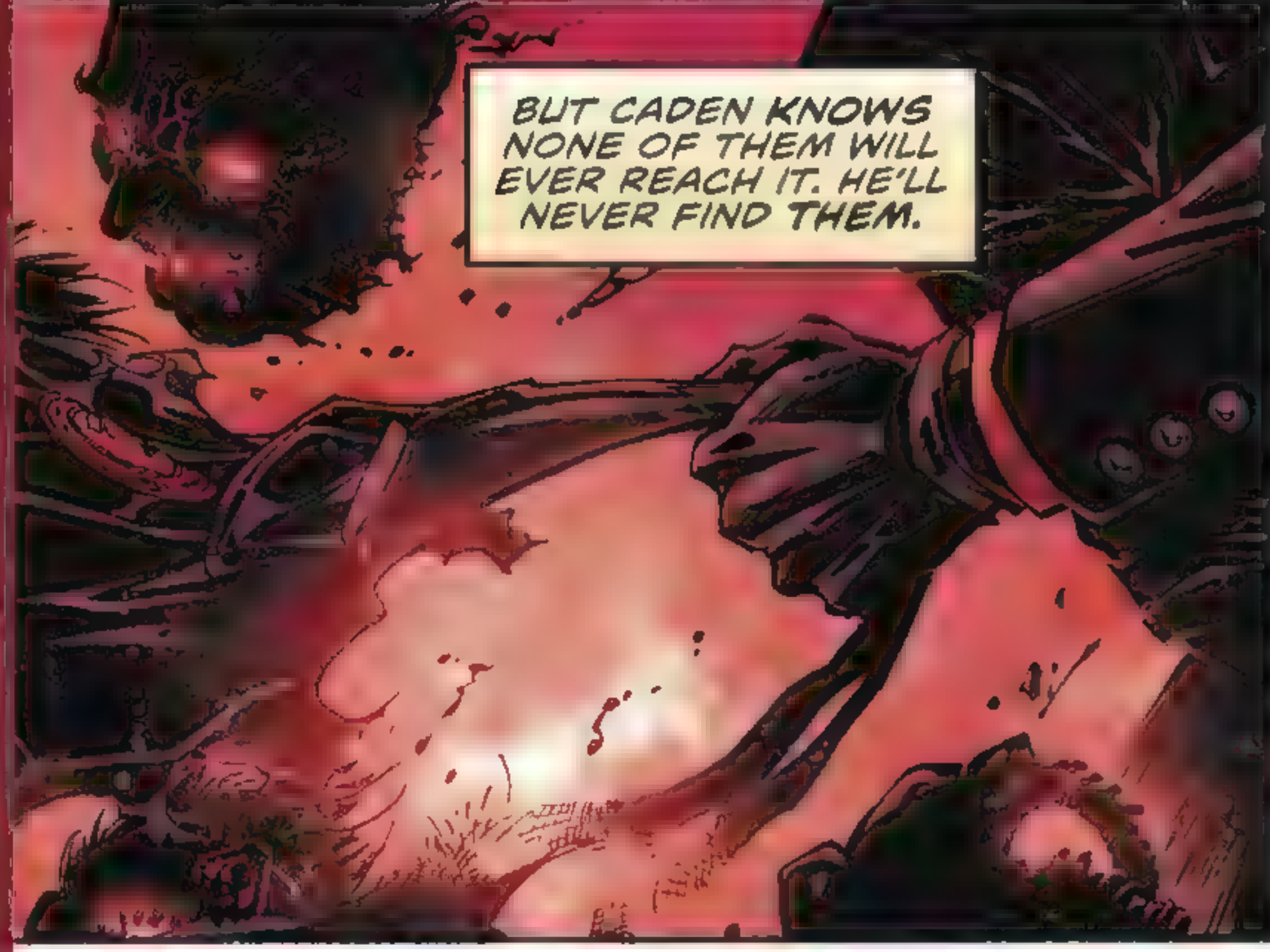


TEENAGERS WITH SPECIAL ABILITIES THEY HAVE ONLY BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND.



THEY RUN TOWARD THEIR SALVATION. A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THEMSELVES.

BUT CADEN KNOWS NONE OF THEM WILL EVER REACH IT. HE'LL NEVER FIND THEM.



AND MOST NIGHTS, HE'S RIGHT.



DEATH CATCHES EACH OF THEM, ONE BY ONE.

THE PAIN ALWAYS FEELS SO REAL. HE PRAYS FOR IT TO STOP.



PRAYS TO WAKE, OR FOR A FAMILIAR HAND TO TAKE HIM BY THE SHOULDER.

AND ENGLUF THE WORLD IN GREEN LIGHT.



EVERY TIME IS THE FIRST TIME. THE SIGHT OF THIS IMPOSSIBLE PLACE TAKES HIS BREATH AWAY.

HE KNOWS HIS STRUGGLE IS OVER. HE KNOWS HE IS GOING TO BE OKAY.

CADEN CALLS IT THE CAMPUS, THOUGH HE DOESN'T REMEMBER WHERE HE FIRST GOT THE NAME. HIS THERAPIST SAYS IT'S A "SANCTUARY"--A TERM SHE PULLED FROM GUIDED MEDITATION.

SHE SAYS IT'S A SAFE PLACE CADEN CAN RETREAT TO IN HIS MIND, WHERE THE STRUGGLES OF THE WORLD AROUND HIM SEEM FAR AWAY.

A PLACE WHERE TIME STANDS STILL, AND DEATH HAS NO PURCHASE.

BUT CADEN KNOWS BETTER... HE KNOWS IT'S MORE THAN AN ESCAPE.

THE MAN'S EYES TELL HIM SO. EYES SO POWERFUL AND PIERCING--THEY HAVE SEEN SO MUCH, OVER SO LONG A TIME--CADEN CAN SCARCELY COMPREHEND IT.

THE EYES BECKON HIM TO GO DEEPER. THEY SPEAK OF A MISSION... A PURPOSE...

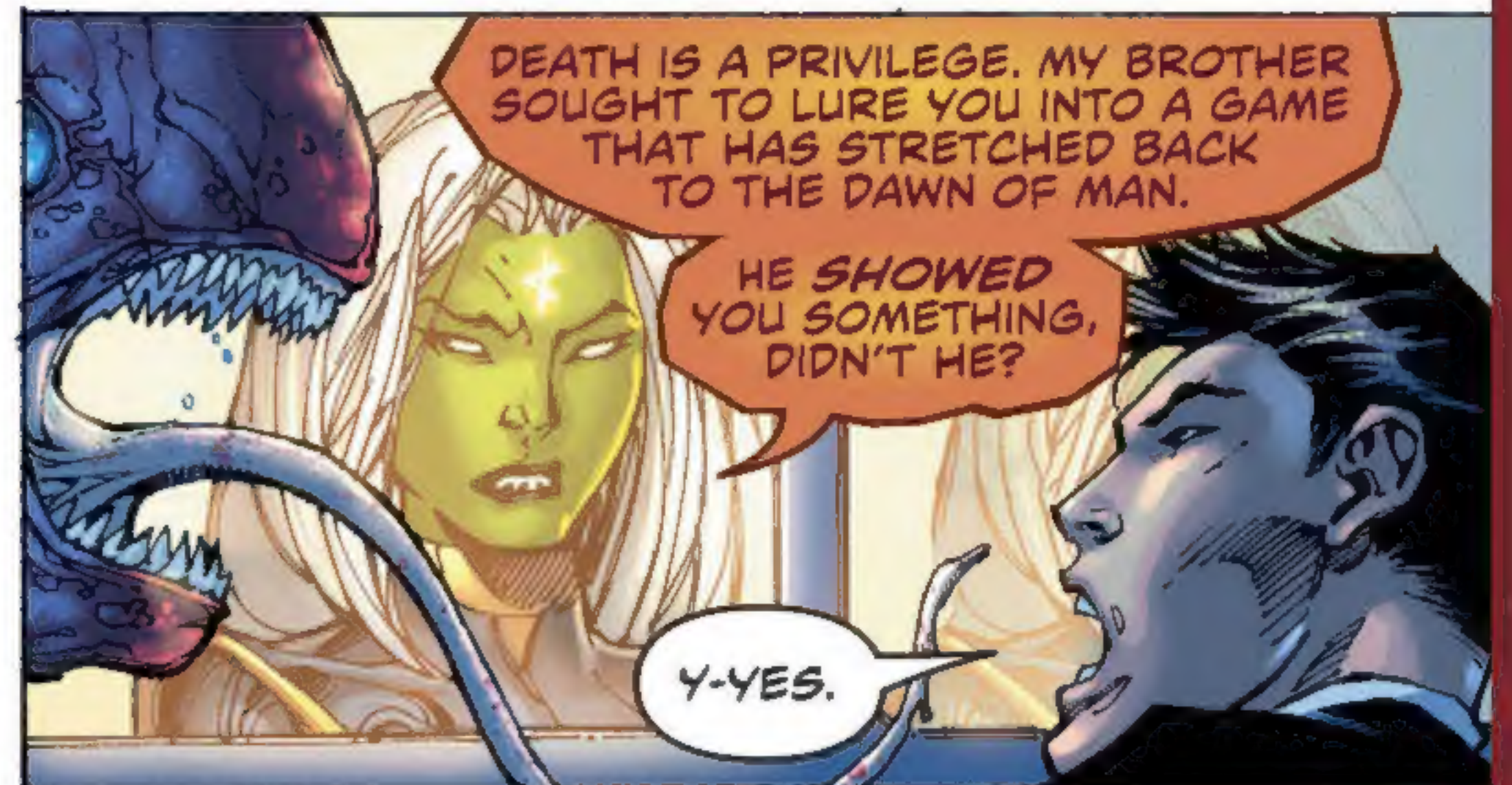
...AND SOMETHING TERRIBLE ON THE HORIZON...

THE IMMORTAL MEN

JIM LEE & JAMES TYNION IV / STORYTELLERS
SCOTT WILLIAMS / INKER
ALEX SINCLAIR / COLORIST
CARLOS M. MANGUAL / LETTERER
LEE, WILLIAMS, SINCLAIR / COVER
JESSICA CHEN / ASSOCIATE EDITOR
KATIE KUBERT / EDITOR

IMMORTAL MEN CREATED BY
JAMES TYNION IV & JIM LEE



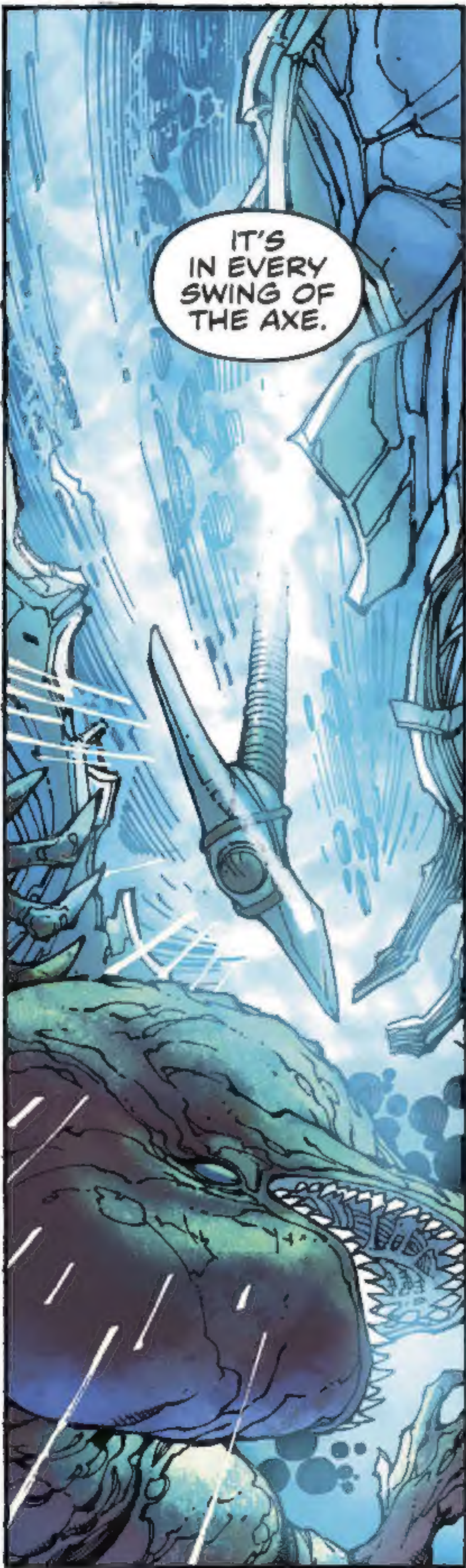




DON'T LISTEN TO HER, KID. I CAN TELL YA HOW TO SAVE THE WORLD.

?

?



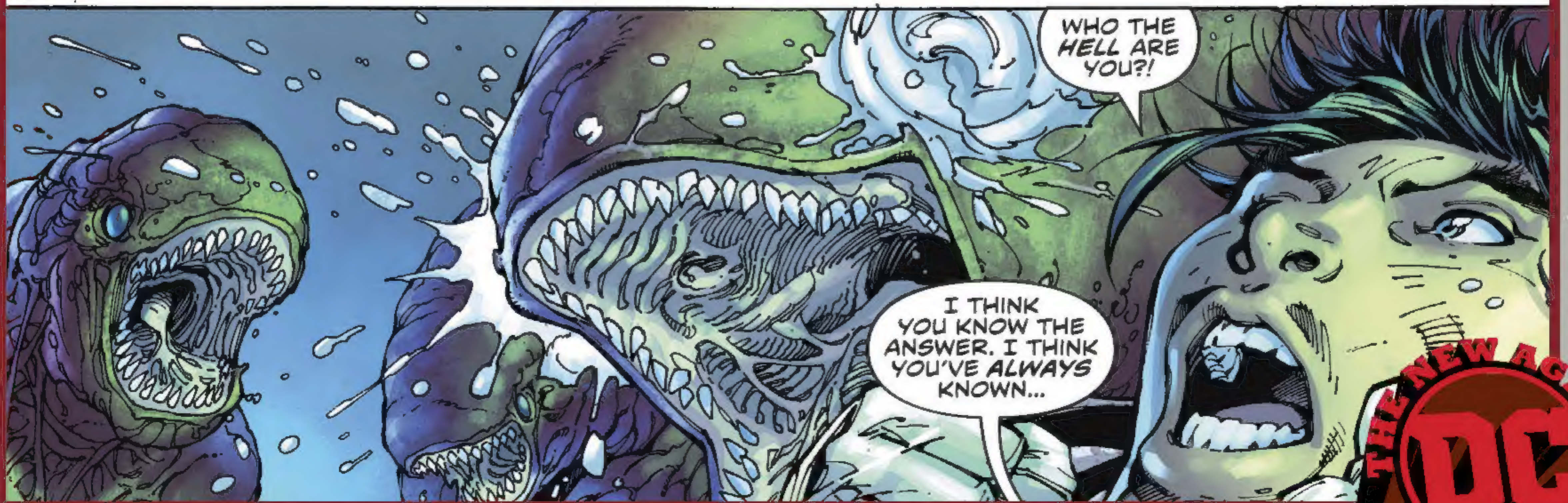
IT'S IN EVERY SWING OF THE AXE.



EVERY STRIKE OF THE CLAW.



IT'S IN THE JUDGMENT OF GOOD MEN WITH RIGHTEOUS INTENT.



WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

I THINK YOU KNOW THE ANSWER. I THINK YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN...





TO BE CONTINUED IN **THE IMMORTAL MEN #1** ON SALE IN MARCH

